

Information for Release

6/27/2012

Date of the notification to CPS: 6/19/2012

Near Fatality

The date the child suffered the near fatality: on or about 6/19/2012

Child's name: Stormi

Age at time of incident: 11 Months

Perpetrator(s): Maria Rivera

Age: 21 years

City, town or general location of residence of the child and perpetrator(s): At the time of the incident, the child and perpetrator were living in Phoenix, Arizona.

A. Circumstances of the fatality or near fatality that indicate it was the result of abuse or neglect:

On or about June 19, 2012, Stormi was seen in the hospital emergency room. The right side of her head was full of blood and Stormi was diagnosed with Shaken Baby Syndrome. In addition to the brain injury, there was a bite mark on her left thigh. Stormi remains in critical condition.

B. Whether CPS has received any reports or past cases of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child and the current alleged abusive or neglectful parent, guardian or custodian* :

CPS has received two prior reports alleging abuse or neglect of Stormi by Maria Rivera.

On March 6, 2012, Stormi was admitted to the hospital for "croup," and while hospitalized she demonstrated seizure-like activity. A MRI revealed small subdural hematomas. The cause was determined to be "speculative." A bone survey revealed Stormi had a transverse skull fracture. The allegations were investigated and the report was unsubstantiated as the hospital was unable to determine if the fracture was old or new. Intensive in-home family preservation services were provided to the family.

On October 31, 2011, allegations were made that the parents engaged in domestic violence in front of their children. The mother, Maria Rivera, was said to have repeatedly shoved Stormi into the arms of the father during the incident. The father claimed that at one point Maria forced Stormi into his arms and then she twisted Stormi's right ankle. The allegations were investigated and the report was unsubstantiated. Intensive in-home family preservation services were provided to the family.

1. Actions taken by CPS in response to the fatality or near fatality of the child including:

CPS is investigating the allegations through a joint investigation with the Phoenix Police Department.

2. Actions taken regarding the child and/or other children in the home:

Stormi remains hospitalized; following an assessment of child safety, her siblings were placed in foster care.

3. Whether the agency is or intends to provide direct services or service referrals to the family:

Services will be determined upon completion of the investigation.

*Posted information provides whether there have been reports or any current or past cases of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child who has died or suffered a near fatality and the current alleged abusive or neglectful parent, guardian or custodian pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807(F)(2)(a)(iv).

Information, if any, regarding other family or household members and the child or the alleged perpetrator is not posted on the Web site. Calls to the Child Abuse Hotline that do not meet the criteria of a report because they do not contain allegations of abuse or neglect (or because there is no information provided to locate the child or family) are not posted.